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SUBJECT Statement By Director Bush

FLOYD KALBER: Two hundred American spies are holding a convention in Reston, Virginia. They're reminiscing about exploits that were once top secret.

Yesterday, CIA Director George Bush talked with them about current developments in the espionage business, and Ford Rowan was there.

FORD ROWAN: Bush told the Retired Intelligence Officers Association that times are improving for the CIA. Bush said Congress now seems less interested in digging up the scandals of the past, and more interested in the future. He said the disclosures hurt the CIA's relations with friendly foreign intelligence services, but they're getting better now.

DIRECTOR GEORGE BUSH: The people upon whom we depend for the most cooperation around the world continue to work closely with us. But there has been a pulling back, in some way. I think it's getting better, because I think that people realize that the storm has been weathered, the changes have taken place, that they can live with the changes, that they need the U.S. to be strong, and that only if they cooperate can we be strong in this field.

ROWAN: Although a year and a half of intensive investigations into CIA wrongdoing is over, it's unlikely that the agency can ever return to the old way of operating in total secrecy. But many of the retired intelligence operatives think that things have quieted down to the point where the CIA can go about its business without constantly looking back over its shoulder.

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